

Fall 8-15-2009

ENG 4850-001: The Postcolonial Psyche in 20th Century Third World Literatures: India, Africa and the Middle-East

Jyoti Panjwani
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2009



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Panjwani, Jyoti, "ENG 4850-001: The Postcolonial Psyche in 20th Century Third World Literatures: India, Africa and the Middle-East" (2009). *Fall 2009*. 131.

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2009/131

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2009 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2009 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

**English 4850: The Postcolonial Psyche in 20th Century Third World Literatures:
India, Africa and the Middle-East
Fall 2009**

Jyoti Panjwani

Office: Ch 3576 (316A)

Phone: 581-3615, e-mail: jpanjwani@eu.edu

Office hrs: TR 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and by appointment

Course Description:

This course will be a study of 20th century narratives by authors from India, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Egypt who have defined themselves *with* and *against* European cultures, in particular the British culture, in order to understand the psychological and emotional make-up of postcolonial characters within a framework, which may be labeled as the '**memory of the past.**' Through an in-depth analysis of issues pertaining to nationalist struggles for political and gender freedoms, notions of 'home' and 'homelands,' indigenous traditions and westernization, transnational and inter-cultural circulation of themes and responses, and normative gender roles and identities, we will theorize the multifarious configurations of the postcolonial psyche contextualized by the cultural and socio-political past of colonial and pre-colonial times as remembered by postcolonial literati. The writers included in this course are R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy, Girish Karnad, Chinua Achebe, Thiong'o wa Ngugi, Okot p'Bitek, Nawaal El Saadawi, Tayeb Salih, and Naguib Mahfouz. Course requirements will include mid-term response paper, final research paper, one class-presentation, and active preparation and class participation.

Course Requirements:

One class presentation on a single topic or work: 15%

One mid-term paper, 7-8 pages: 30%

One final paper, 8-10 pages: 40%

Active Preparation and Class Participation: 15%

Texts Required:

Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol*

Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*

Girish Karnad. *Hayavadana*

Naguib Mahfouz. *Midaq Alley*

Thomas Mann. *The Transposed Heads*

R.K. Narayan. *The Guide*

Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*

Nawaal El-Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*

Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *Weep Not, Child*

Heinrich Zimmer (Trans.) *The King and the Corpse*

Course Policies:

The course format will be informal lecture and exploratory discussion. Class participation, therefore, will be a significant component of this course. Your presence in the class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances will equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade; an 'A' essay due on Friday will be an 'F' by next Thursday.

Plagiarism Policy (English Department):

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus

Week 1

8/25 – Introduction to the Course

Segment 1: Notions of ‘Home’ and Homeland: Traditions and Postcoloniality

8/27 – Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*

Week 2

9/1 – continued

9/3 – continued

Week 3

9/8 – R.K. Narayan. *The Guide*

9/10 – continued

Week 4

9/15 – continued, Naguib Mahfouz. *Midaq Alley*
9/17 – continued

Segment 2: Gender Roles, Identities, and Freedoms

Week 5

9/22 – continued, Nawal El Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*
9/24 – continued

Week 6

9/29 – continued, Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Lawino*
10/1 – continued

Week 7

10/6 – continued, Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*
10/8 – continued, Mid-term Paper due

Week 8

10/13 – continued

Segment 3: Nationalism and Trans-cultural Circulation of Themes and Responses

10/15– continued, Zimmer. *The King and the Corpse* (p. 210) and Thomas Mann. *The Transposed Heads*

Week 9

10/20 – continued
10/22– continued, Girish Karnad *Hayavadana* (in *Three Plays*)

Week 10

10/27- continued
10/29- continued, Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*

Week 11

11/3- continued
11/5- continued, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *Weep Not Child*

Week 12

11/10- continued

11/12- continued

Week 13

11/17- Class Presentations

11/19- Class Presentations

Week 14

12/1- Class Presentations

12/3- Class Presentations

Week 15

12/8- Class Presentations

12/10- Review: Theorizing the Postcolonial Psyche, Final Paper due